



Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona

NEWS RELEASE

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Chairman Owens Announces \$35,000 WIFA Grant to City of Somerton for Water Master Plan

PHOENIX – Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona (WIFA) Chairman Steve Owens today announced a \$35,000 grant to the City of Somerton. The grant to Somerton will fund the pre-design phase of the City's Water Master Plan.

The purpose of the plan is to create a drinking water treatment and distribution system master plan that will accommodate the growth in the community for the next ten years.

"This is another example of a forward thinking approach to planning for a community's future. Developing a Water Master Plan will allow Somerton to evaluate their current system and find the best plan to meet their current and future infrastructure challenges," said Chairman Owens, who is also Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. "The project will also include finding a new water source, such as surface water or the blending of ground and surface water in order to provide residents with a cleaner more reliable drinking water supply."

Simultaneously, the City is planning to replace old asbestos concrete pipes with PVC pipes. The City is also constructing a new well to replace an existing non-performing well.

Somerton received a WIFA technical assistance grant in 2003 for their wastewater master plan; however, it was unrelated to this project. Further, in 2004 WIFA again partnered with the City and provided a \$4.4 million low-interest loan for construction of their wastewater treatment plant.

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ABOUT THE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AUTHORITY OF ARIZONA

The Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona maintains and improves water quality in Arizona by providing communities and private water systems with access to low-interest financial assistance and technical assistance needed for basic water infrastructure. WIFA's funds are capitalized by contributions from the US Congress and the state of Arizona. As a leader in water infrastructure finance, WIFA has become a premier financial institution both in Arizona and nationally. Visit WIFA's Web site at www.azwifa.gov.